



MATTAWAN PRESCHOOL

Curriculum Overview
Stephanie Eaton
Principal



The Preschool Experience

Experiences are provided that meet children’s needs and stimulate learning in all developmental areas-physical, social, emotional and intellectual. Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and timing of growth and development. Different levels of ability development and learning styles are expected, accepted, and used to design appropriate activities. Interactions and activities are designed to develop children’s self-esteem and positive feelings toward learning.

Mattawan Preschool will follow the Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten in the areas of Language and Early Literacy Development, Early Learning in Mathematics, Early Learning in Science, Early Learning in Social Studies, Approaches to Learning Social, Emotional, and Physical Health and Development, as well as Creative Arts.

<p><u>Social, Emotional, and Physical Health and Development</u> The preschool program focuses on promoting a positive learning environment and self-esteem. Developing the ability to share, cooperate and interact with other children and adults lays the foundation for success. Parents, teachers, and children working together help each child reach his/her potential.</p> <p>Preschool children will work toward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working and playing cooperatively with others • feeling secure and at ease at school • trying new activities; taking risks • asking for help when needed • following classroom and school rules • exhibiting self-control • taking responsibility for personal belongings and needs • working and playing in small groups and whole/large groups • identifying a variety of feelings and moods • become increasingly more independent • grow in their ability to follow simple, clear directions • develop fine and gross motor skills 	<p><u>Early Learning in Mathematics</u> Lessons with open ended experiences encourage young children to explore and discover problem solving techniques. Concepts such as patterning, sorting, classifying, counting, comparing and graphing are explored, along with introducing numbers and number value. This is accomplished through games, construction, manipulation and interaction with materials. Opportunities are provided to use real, concrete materials for verbalization and observation.</p> <p>Preschool children will work toward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making sense of problems and persevere in how to solve them • describe comparative relationships (more/less/same) • develop interest and awareness of numbers and counting • sorting and classifying • exploring patterns • creating and reading graphs • exploring concepts of measurement • using the vocabulary of math • solving problems using manipulatives and strategies • beginning counting and creating a concept of numbers representing values or amounts 	<p><u>Language Development</u> Children are provided many opportunities to express themselves clearly and communicate ideas to others.</p> <p>Meaningful experiences provided include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using spoken language to express feelings, ask for help, and respond to others • use nonverbal expressions to match spoken expression • develop vocabulary by using words from stories and conversation • learn roles in a conversation (taking turns, asking relevant questions) • develop the ability to respond to questions appropriately • show progress in listening to directions
--	--	--

Early Literacy Development

During preschool years children are emerging as readers and writers. Preschool students will begin to understand the written language read to them from a variety of materials and develop a positive attitude about literacy.

Preschool children will:

- choose to read, listen, and view literary pieces for enjoyment and information
- demonstrate emotion from literacy experiences
- retell a few important events and ideas from written materials
- use different strategies for understanding written materials (making predictions, using text structure, linking experiences with the story, asking relevant questions)
- learning to recognize upper and lowercase alphabet letters
- learning the sounds that each alphabet letter makes
- recognize their name in print

Writing

Students begin their writing through verbal storytelling, followed by pictorial stories, learning to add labels to their pictures, and then finally, writing words. They receive an introduction to the process of writing in the genres of Narratives, Informational, and Opinion throughout the duration of the year.

Preschool children will:

- begin to understand that their ideas can be written and read by themselves or others
- use a variety of forms of early writing (scribbling, drawing, letter strings, copy environment print)
- develop an understanding for the purpose of writing (lists, directions, stories invitations, labels)
- begin to write familiar words like their name
- use literature to teach students the craft of writing/storytelling

Early Literacy in Social Studies

Students will focus on developing an understanding of self and family. Building positive self-concepts and getting along in our school community are important aspects of the program.

Preschool children will:

- adjusting to school, learning to make new friends and working together as a team
- learning the importance of appreciating similarities and differences of individuals
- describing families and what makes up families--discussing similarities and differences of families
- experiencing a variety of people and cultures

Early Literacy in Science

Early learning in science builds a child's natural sense of wonder and curiosity. Science lessons will provide opportunities for students to have hands on experiences in conjunction with math skills to create a positive attitude toward science.

Preschool children will work toward:

- demonstrating curiosity about and interest in the natural world
- demonstrating a positive attitude toward the environment
- asking questions related to their own interests and observations
- begin simple investigations
- observing characteristics, similarities, differences and changes
- classifying and ordering materials, events and phenomena according to attributes and properties

Creative Arts

Creative arts include visual arts, instrumental, vocal music, creative movement, and dramatic play. Children's learning in all of the areas listed above is enhanced by the integration of creative arts.

Preschool children will:

- develop creativity through the use of various art mediums
- plan and carry out projects and activities
- participate in musical activities (listening, singing, finger play, singing games)
- grow in the ability to pretend and use objects as a symbol for other things
- use dramatic play to represent the world around them, characters and feelings
- talk about their creations with peers and adults



The Mattawan Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status, or any other legally protected characteristic in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Please contact the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, 56720 Murray Street, Mattawan, MI 49071, 269-668-3361 with inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies.